

The President's Daily Brief

1 November 1971

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Soviet Deputy Defense Minister Kutakhov is in New Delhi to assess India's defense requirements as both India and Pakistan continue to vie for international support. (Page 1)

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The Soviet naval task group arrived at Havana yesterday to begin its ten-day visit to Cuba. (Page 3)

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INDIA-USSR-PAKISTAN

Soviet Deputy Defense Minister Kutakhov arrived in New Delhi on Saturday for what Indian officials describe as a routine visit to assess India's defense requirements. The officials say the trip was arranged last month at the height of the Indo-Pakistani military buildup along the borders.

Kutakhov's trip follows closely that of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Firyubin late last month.

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On Saturday, the Indian defense and foreign ministries held the first of what are to be daily press briefings on the military situation. The officials, while accusing the Pakistanis of hundreds of border violations on both the east and west fronts last month, admitted for the first time that Indian Army troops have been engaged in fighting on the border with East Pakistan. (Previously, New Delhi had claimed that such skirmishes involved only Border Security Forces.)

Pakistani President Yahya Khan on 30 October again called on Pakistani refugees--both Hindu and Moslem--to return home from India. Yahya asserted that the number of "genuine refugees" was only around two million--not 9.5 million as claimed by New Delhi.

Yahya's statement on the refugees is most likely intended to balance the version being expounded by Prime Minister Gandhi on her foreign tour.

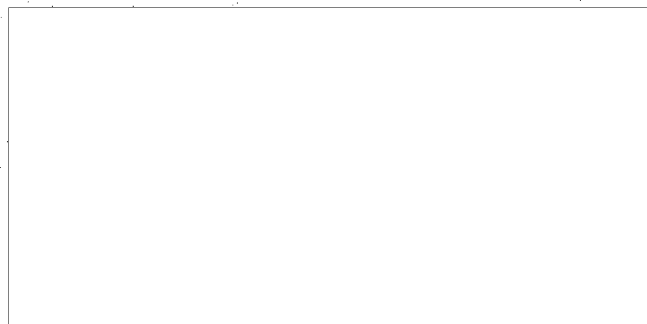
Mrs. Gandhi, now in the UK, is scheduled to meet with UN Secretary General Thant on Wednesday. She is expected to tell him that India opposes all UN initiatives other than efforts aimed at encouraging the Pakistani Government to negotiate a settlement with the East Pakistanis.

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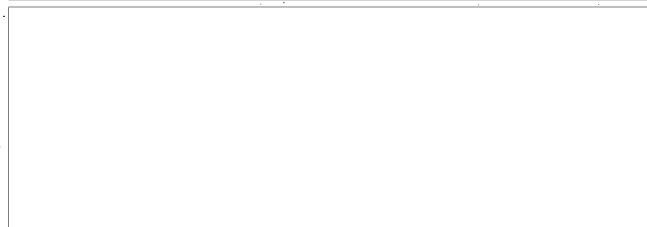
EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY



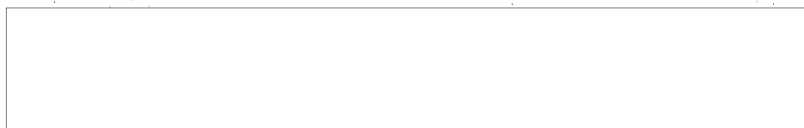
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NOTE

USSR-Cuba: The Soviet naval task group arrived at Havana yesterday to begin its ten-day visit to Cuba. Since leaving the Mediterranean three weeks ago, the ships have conducted training operations including antisubmarine maneuvers and reconnaissance of the USS Saratoga as it headed toward Bermuda. On the basis of previous performance, the group is expected to make several calls in Cuban ports and perform training maneuvers south of the island and in the Gulf of Mexico. The two Soviet TU-95 naval reconnaissance planes that flew to Cuba on 27 October were still at Jose Marti airfield when the ships arrived. Completing his five-day visit to Cuba, Soviet Premier Kosygin left for home on Saturday.

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